



Turbulence

Lyn Gala

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Corporal Jacqs Glebov is a simple soldier who wants a bunk, decent food and the company of other battle-hardened men and women who understand the realities of fighting. Instead he's stuck patrolling a remote corner of the border with cadets straight out of boot camp. They don't understand him, and he sure doesn't have an ounce of respect for them.

After a field promotion, Earth sends Commander Zeke Waters to the Candiru for some practical experience in a leadership role. Instead, Zeke falls in lust with the adamantly heterosexual Jacqs. The way Jacqs fights and the way he sees the world draws Zeke closer, even if common sense tells him to walk away.

Even if they can find a way to reconcile their sexual differences, they are both still soldiers. The war will eventually take them away from each other unless they can find a way to escape the rules that have defined their lives.

Turbulence Details

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From Reader Review Turbulence for online ebook

Elizabethetta says

The first three chapters or so of this were released earlier this year as a short story (The Only Way Out Is In) from a prompt submitted for the Goodreads 2013 Love Has No Boundaries event. I will borrow from my review of that short for this longer version of the story.

Jacqs, a combat soldier demoted to lowly gunner on the spaceship *Candiru*, is based on a character in *Firefly*, a popular TV sci-fi series. And like his inspiration, he is a jerk. He seems to be constantly on the sexual prowl and to hear Jacqs talk, he has fended off and has no interest in the advances of 'hypersexualized, queer-turned and pansexual types'. The lad doth protest too much, methinks.

"Jacqs had never sexed a male. He was pure het. Always had been, always would be."

Lesson one: never say never...

It's so easy to dislike him. Uncouth, dim, narrow-minded... What is up with this guy? But, there is a little more to the picture, hints of an early life full of hardship, neglect, and abuse—

"Jacqs couldn't quite imagine telling anyone how he felt sick inside watching people get bullied."

From the age of eight he grew up fending for himself, living in a refugee camp, fighting for scraps... That could explain a few things.

When his new CO, Zeke Waters, comes on board, things start changing and one of them is Jacqs. Hidden under all the bluster we see there is a heart. Training sessions between the two on a sparring mat turn into a different kind of mating dance. Worthy opponents with similar life experiences, Zeke and Jacqs could be a match made in heaven.

It's little wonder that Jacqs is so focused on sexual categorization, there is a lot of it in this world where people register their sexual identities (see the glossary at the end of the book). It's perhaps overused in the story... at least that's how it felt at times... But, it's a huge clue that Jacqs has only been interested in a certain type of woman: tough, aggressive, and usually for sale. Zeke (registered pansexual) is strong, ambitious and self confident. When he shows up onboard he brings a different kind of officer, one who will listen and study his crew, and use logic to train them into better soldiers (after all there is a war on and the alien 'batfaces' are an ever-present threat). Jacqs comes to a realization that what attracts him sexually may not be gender-based as much as it is attraction to certain character attributes.

I do find it amazing how much Jacqs changes in the story, but I chalk it up to personal growth and his meeting 'the right person at the right time'. And having more room for understanding and experimentation. So, Jacqs' character does a huge turn-around and we see that he's not only flexible at survival but in love too.

The author craftily expands the short story, coloring in the characters and giving them depth. While this is where the writing shines, in the character build, the middle part of the story stalls for me because of it. I keep thinking... but there's a war raging out there and we seem stuck on this ship with a lot of talk and

introspection.

This is the only real issue I have with the pacing, I wish it had been interspersed with a bit more action. Finally, the crew gets called to a dangerous mission to rescue a diplomatic ship which has crash landed and needs help with repairs. Jacqs is sent out with some of the other crew. This action sequence is great and brings the pacing back up to speed and maintains it to the end.

The sex, as expected, is very good. Even more, there is a helluva sweet scene of zero gravity sexing ('zexting')—a first in my sci-fi reading...

“... Jacqs grabbed Zeke’s hips and used sheer force to pull himself down onto Zeke and hold himself there as he thrust into him... the physics of reaction threatened to send Jacqs sailing away... the lack of gravity tried to steal that hard edge that he needed to come... small drops of cum slipped free of their bodies and floated up, tiny white pearls scattered between them.”

A fun scene, and visualizing the clean-up afterwards... oh, yeah...

It's the last half of the book when the action picks up that elevates it for me. The enemy aliens finally make an appearance, and there is some good political intrigue and high drama. The ending, though, while clever, feels unsettled. It's another big change for these two guys and I can't quite buy that this is it for them.

Kudos to the author for taking a prompt that asked for a not very likable character and turning him around, while managing to keep him true to himself. Again, great characters and world-building, and some great action.

For this review, give-aways, author interviews, and much more:

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Thank you so much for the gift, Paul!! <3

Lyn Gala says

This is officially out tomorrow. This is my longest piece since Blowback, and it's sci-fi. *fingers crossed*

Kat says

Turbulence came together in an interesting way. It started out as Firefly fan fiction, when a fantastic someone requested a story about Joss Whedon's Firefly crew member Jayne during the Love Has No Boundaries event for the M/M Romance Group on Goodreads. Lyn Gala took the prompt and turned it into

what would become my favorite story of this year's event: The Only Way In Is Out (100 pages, get it for free here).

My love for that novella has a lot to do with the fact that I'm a Firefly fangirl. Addict. Crazy. To the extent that my hatred for Fox for canceling the show after only one season knows no boundaries and will be everlasting. For those who, oddly enough, have never heard of or watched Firefly and the conclusive film Serenity, you can find a few clues to Jayne's personality in my review for The Only Way In Is Out. To answer your question: Yes, I think it's necessary to be familiar with Firefly and Jayne's character to appreciate what Gala did in The Only Way In Is Out. Chances are that you won't get along with our Jayne here otherwise. Gala may have renamed him Jacqs; he still is a pretty special guy.

The novella barely stilled my hunger, so imagine my excitement when Gala expanded it into a book of no less than 340 pages! As it turns out I still like the original story best. Sure, Turbulence is well-written, has a couple of nice alpha on alpha sex scenes and the kind of testosterone fueled wrestling scenes that this author always does so well. But overall, some of the magic was lost for me in the extended part and I found that I had to really push myself to read on.

Pinpointing what precisely caused this... Jacqs' personality as well as that of his love interest Zeke seemed to have changed rather dramatically in the extended part. If you, like me, are delighted when you come across unconventional heroes in your M/M, chances are that you will be a tad disappointed when the tough and boorish MC, who has only just discovered his sexuality, changes into a guy with mushy tendencies. There's hand holding, there's thinking about 'the man he loves' and both men worry about each other like mother hens. I had hoped their fling would take a more amusing and interesting direction. Don't tell me sharing a bunk with a Jacqs doesn't have more potential than turning it into a butterflies & daisies experience!

What got to me most though, was the...lack of humor? Firefly is a series that made me cry from laughing so hard, not in the last place because of Jayne's hilarious, politically incorrect character. He may be a dim-witted asshole, at least he is incredibly funny because of it. Since Turbulence is based on this very series and character, making comparisons is unavoidable. And unfortunately, those aren't in Turbulence's favor. Without Firefly's signature humor, Jacqs simply is too bland a character for me to really enjoy reading about.

Still, there's no doubt that Gala is a fantastic writer who has written a bunch of impressive works (for example; have you read Claimings, Tails, and Other Alien Artifacts yet? You should!). And although this book didn't live up to my expectations completely, its world will probably make the hearts of science fiction fans beat faster. Then there's of course the Firefly factor. If you loved that series, I would definitely recommend reading The Only Way In Is Out and, if you like what you read, see for yourself if Turbulence works for you.

Smith Barney says

Gah! Outstanding user-friendly homoerotic sci-fi saga. Fantastic imperfect characterization depth and originality. What a well-written world!

SheReadsALot says

I have a feeling this is going to be really good!

Jenni Lea says

Wow. Oh, wow.

I didn't intend to write a review for this book. I was just going to link my review to Xing's and call it a day.

But then I read some more.

Here we have Jacqs. Jacqs is unapologetically gruff and honest to a fault. He has pretty much alienated everyone around him with his rude behavior and stand-offishness (I made a new word!). What makes him so amazing is that he is so incredibly self-aware. He knows exactly who he is and if no one else likes it, well that's just too bad. He will tell you exactly what he thinks without an ounce of guilt. And he's 100% heterosexual. Or so he thinks.

Jacqs is settled in his life. He understands that he's been placed on the Candiru with no intention of him ever leaving. He's accepted his fate and is content for the most part. He doesn't like change so his current way of life is just fine with him.

Then he meets Zeke. His new commander. His new intriguing commander. His new sexually arousing commander. And everything gets tilted on its head.

But does Jacqs balk at the idea of being attracted to Zeke? Does he lash out and push him away? Does he run? NO! After some careful introspection, he does what he normally does whenever something new comes at him. He meets it head on. He doesn't back down. He actually seeks out Zeke and *tells him what he's feeling*. He *explores* his new desires without any fear or trepidation.

This book was a breath of fresh air. The perfect balance between character driven storyline and action/adventure. A fine example of the classic space opera. And all the secondary characters were fully fleshed out as well. I was sucked into the story from the first word and wasn't let go until the end of the epilogue. I laughed, I cried, I cringed, I even shouted at my screen a time or two.

And it was all because of Jacqs. He made this alluring story all the more fascinating just by being who he was and having no regrets on how he as well as his life turned out. I wish I could meet someone like Jacqs in real life.

Lyn Gala gets top marks from me and now and forever will be an auto-buy for me.

M'rella says

It did drag a little in the middle. 4.5 stars
Love Jacqs :)

Ingie says

[[You don't need to read the shortie if you start to read this full length novel from the beginning. This is an extension of the first free book.] (hide spoiler)]

Kaje Harper says

This is a fun, absorbing, very-accessible SciFi story, with enough thought in the setting and world-building to be plausible and interesting, but not so much that it demands close attention or detracts from the human story. The charm of the book is definitely in its POV character, Jacqs, who is unusual, memorable and worth spending time with.

Jacqs is an experienced soldier, a big man and a fighter, with a very straightforward world-view and attitude. He grew up in refugee camps and on a smugglers' ship, and somewhere along the way developed an extreme pragmatism. He also has a blindspot for bullshit - not that he doesn't recognize it when he sees it, but that he has no concept of why people feel compelled to spew it or live with it, or expect anyone to believe it or go along with it. He's not particularly intelligent, but he isn't stupid either, just simple, in perceptions and reactions.

When Jacqs believes something, he acts on it. This explains his current long assignment in a back-waters patrolling ship. His habit of acting on it is to punch out the guy who needs punching, regardless of what regulations say. Jacqs makes no allowances for status, whether the object of his ire is giving rotten food to starving refugees, or grabbing a woman roughly, whether she's a whore or no. He's been promoted and busted back half a dozen times, and just lives with that cycle.

Jacqs also has a blindspot he isn't aware of, for the variety of human sexual experiences and preferences. In this future, people register their preferences, to avoid misunderstanding. Jacqs is registered as hetero, and his loathing for the gay man on crew whom he knows best seems to reinforce that. But a new pan-sexual commander, who is also a veteran and a fighter, begins to tip his perceptions off-level. And it becomes clear that his background, size and belligerent attitude have kept him from figuring out who he really is. The new commander, Zeke, is about to change all that.

In a way, this character reminded me slightly of Al in *Muscling Through* - he doesn't have Al's fundamental sweetness and goodness, but he has the same clarity of vision that cuts to the heart of a situation without even realizing all the civilized obscuring layers exist. Of course, once he gets to the heart, Jacqs is likely to either fight it or fuck it, but there is a straightforwardness to him that is admirable to those who see it. And

Zeke, the battle-front veteran with an artificial leg who lands on his ship, is a man who also can see through the appearance of things to their heart.

This was a fast, fun read with some hot sex scenes and a MC and his love interest who stand apart and fascinated me. I haven't read this author before, but I definitely will now. Highly recommended.

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

Meh. Took me a long time to get into it. I wasn't crazy about Jacqs though he did grow on me. The story took A LOT of time to quantify various sexualities that I found tedious. Why does *everything* have to have a specific and precise label? I did get more interested as the story progressed. I think, essentially, it was more sci-fi than I was anticipating, but I can't say I didn't enjoy their... ahem, physicality. *eyebrow raise*

Bitchie says

I loved this, and I do NOT usually read sci fi.

This book features two very hot alpha males. I know, Jacqs was scarred and blunt to a fault, but I just loved that about him. He wasn't educated, but he had more common sense than almost all of his crew mates. He was adamantly straight, until he met the new Commander for his ship, Zeke.

Zeke was also scarred, as good soldiers tend to be. Both of these men were of the take no shit variety, and they meshed really well. Their fight/training scenes were just as hot as their sex scenes, and their sex scenes were smoking- passionate and violent and perfect.

Jacqs doesn't do the typical "I can't be gay!" wangsting around, he realized there was a lot to sex and sexual preference than he'd ever known, and he knows that happiness and feeling good is in short supply where he is from, so when he finds a piece of happiness, he grabs on and does not let go. I loved that about him. I loved that there were hidden depths behind his gruff exterior, and I loved that, because of Zeke, his crew finally realized that and came to appreciate who and what he really was.

I do remember that this book originally came from a short story written for a reader with Firefly's Jayne in mind, and knowing that, I did have his voice in my head a lot of the time, but fortunately I was able to disconnect his face and put my own on it. I had tons of fun reading this, and might have to rethink my usual no sci fi stance.

Gigi says

4.5 stars

I don't normally read SciFic M/M romances, but I love Lyn Gala and the reviews for this one are great.

Zeke and Jacqs have a volatile and passionate relationship that eventually turns to love. The sex was smoking hot!

Before Jacqs could figure out what he wanted to do, Zeke slammed into him, and then they both crashed into the wall. His first instinct was to fight, to shove back until he made room for himself. But then Zeke caught Jacqs by the shirtfront, fisting it as he pinned Jacqs against the wall. Zeke's hot mouth pressed against Jacqs's lips.

Gotta love the wall-slamming sex! Oh and **zero gravity sex!** That melted my brain.

With SciFi a HEA is not always guaranteed, but we get an absolutely perfect one here. I loved it.

Highly recommended

Vivian says

3.5 stars

Jacqs, brusque speech and a bristling demeanor get him into more trouble than he deserves. First impressions are not his friend, and silver-tongued he's not. While you're at it toss out PC, plays well with others and gives a shit. He truly is a man of action.

One of these days he had to learn how to schedule trouble for the last day of leave instead of the first.

Zeke, a hero and recruitment poster dream. His appearance on the ship is a surprise in a couple different ways and it means change is a blowing. Experienced and being vetted for more, he's seen the front lines of this war and knows how ugly the truth is.

Experienced is the opposite of the *Caridu* personnel. With a crew so green one can only hope they don't run into anything.

Compared to everyone else around here, she was only averagely incompetent.

But even in the far reaches of space, things happen...

Life didn't owe them one minute together, and now it looked like life felt a need to remind them all of that fact.

Cue the hyperspace shift from the quiet complacency of daily ship life to mission orders received. There was nice development of the characters before the action intensified. Jacq's transformation during the story was less of a surprise to him than everyone else. Watching him and Zeke battle it out was fun. Actually, it was pretty darn hot. Seeing Jacq bite his tongue was funny and the ending was unexpected, untraditional, and I loved it.

What didn't work was the encyclopedia required to reference the various sexual identities in this book. I loved that there were so many, but crammed into a single book was a bit overload. I think it might have worked better to have fewer characters' orientations explained and kept the head spinning to a minimum.

Recommended to space opera fans and alpha v. alpha lovers

Favorite quote:

“The world’s going to take a shit on my head anywhere I go, but when we’re together, it’s easier to not think about how much it smells.”

~~A copy was provided to me for a No Glitter Blown review~~

~~~Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews~~~

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**Xing says**

Rating 4.5 stars

Jac (short for Jacqs, because I keep wanting to type ‘Jaques’) is a 38 year old, ex front line soldier. To say it bluntly, his life sucks. All he’s known is being a soldier in a war of humanity against the batfaces. And it was only one incident of many that caused him to be a gunner for a tin can in space, where he is working with the incompetents and newbies aboard the Candiru.

I believe you have to really like Jac in order to enjoy Turbulence. After all, the story is told from Jac’s third-person POV. Personally, I **love** this man! He talks like a red neck, is not afraid to tell both men and women to fuck off, and is never one to lie or bullshit. Jac is described as “simple,” and even he states he’s not a smart person. However, he’s far from a meathead – all brawn and no brain. I find Jac to be an intelligent person in his own occupation – mainly, he knows how to survive. He may not be quick on a sarcastic comeback to a conversation, but he can look at the crew of the Candiru and just *knows* they aren’t worth the spit it takes to hydrate them (his wording, not mine).

But despite all the rough in Jac, he’s one more thing: honest. He doesn’t run from a fight. Even after discovering his sexual identity, he didn’t do what many characters I’ve read had done. He didn’t go into denial. He didn’t avoid the person that made him question his sexuality. He didn’t try to lose himself in alcohol. He did what he always did, and charge straight ahead: fuck regrets, because in war, you could be dead in a minute against the batfaces. His honesty with himself and with life in general (mainly that it sucks, and you can’t do much about it when it’s war) was so refreshing in a genre full of “Oh woe is me.”

The book, while told from Jac’s perspective, also took time in introducing the Candiru’s crew. Not so much info that my brain felt overloaded, but enough to feel a sense of belonging myself. You could feel Jac’s disgust with everyone on the crew, with the exception of a few. And one of those people is the new commander, Zeke.

Zeke, a war hero of sorts, the kind of person whose picture is placed on recruitment posters throughout many planets. I really like Zeke, and his need to want to take on all responsibilities (the good and the bad). I won’t say much except that Jac is perfect for him, because Jac is never one to be shy on telling Zeke that life sucks - just because Zeke’s a commander doesn’t mean he can control the bad things that happen. What more can you ask for, if not an honest lover? \*swoon\*

The relationship wasn't insta-lust/attraction either. Both guys got along well at first. Jac was suspicious of Zeke's motives and actions, but it wasn't one of those "he got an erection looking at the dude and didn't know why" kind of situations.

So Zeke's introduction to the Cандiru, Jac's relationship with Zeke and among other things start things off in this book. About 50% into the book is when we start having action that is prevalent in many of these types of space war stories. Despite the humor and Jac's sarcasm and blunt comments (I love the way he talks, LOL), it is easy to forget that this is a *war story*. I think it was easy for me to forget about this, and was brought back to the cruel reality of things when certain events happen and difficult decisions had to be made.

So I laughed a lot. There were moments I also got teary eyed, but was glad the book never got to the point of me having to bust out a roll of toilet paper. Turbulence had a good balance of emotions without pushing me too far along one end of the scale. It was also very thoughtful, because we don't always think in the mindset of someone growing up and only knowing war.

And oh, can't forget the sex. Two alpha males (Jac is 6'5 and is 230 pounds of rock hard muscle and attitude, while Zeke isn't too shabby either) in limited space. Hmm, need I say more?

Edit: I forgot to add my favorite quote!

**"The world's going to take a shit on my head anywhere I go, but when we're together, it's easier to not think about how much it smells."** - Jacqs

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